NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

CONTRACTOR AND ANDRESS OF

Action of the House on the Internal Tax Bill.

Modification of the Clause Levving Taxes on Newspapers.

Remarks of Mr. Colfax on the Tax oh Advertisements.

Debate in the Senate on the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia.

2x-President Pierce and the Knights of the Golden Circle.

The Radicals Again Interfering with Army Officers.

BARBARITIES OF THE BEBELS AT MANASSAS.

WASHINGTON, April 1, 1862.

ACTION OF THE HOUSE ON THE TAX BILL. The House spent most of the session to-day in consider ing the Tax bill, which is pushed vigorously by the Committee of Ways and Means. Many members have but little relish for this important work, and the House indles rapidly below a quorum. A call of the House was made this afternoon, and all sorts of excuse the telegraph," another by important personal business; another "was excessively hungry," &c. Mr. Stevens is obliged to crack the parliamentary whip

Pending the section taxing spirits, the following was the Committee of Ways and Means :- On spirits mixed with other liquors or materials, or prepared in any way be sold as whiskey, brandy, gin, wine, or by any of name, not otherwise provided, fifty cents per gallon, on the basis of the first proof; and so in proportion for any greater strength than the strength of first proof. Mr Edwards moved as an amendment the following:—

That this tax shall be assessed on all such spirits held by any person or persons for sale at the time this act shall take effect.

This amendment was lost, establishing, it is thought the final sense of the House as to taxing any article no ufactured at the time the act shall take effect. 188UE OF TREASURY CERTIFICATES.

About one and a balf millions of six per cent certificates were issued to-day, chiefly of the denomination of one thousand dollars. The checks and warrants now in mount to about ten millions.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF Some of the radical portion of Congress begin to mani fest a little uneasiness at the inordinate haste with which the project of abolishing slavery in the District of roduce the emancipation of a single negro, except such serthless ones as the owners would be glad to get rid of; out the simple agitation of the subject has already had a very deleterious influence upon the free negro popu-lation, and instigated an insupportable insolence among them, which forces itself upon the attention of many who were at first carried away with the idea of abolishing slavery in the federal capital. It is rapidly becoming apparent that the presecution of this scheme will not only make the city of Washington the rendezvous of the most worthless class of population, but will be regarded by the whole country as an evidence of consciousness on the part of the republicans that the power they now possess part of the republicans that the power they now possess will be soon swept from their grasp, never more to be

The speech of Sepator Wright this afternoon produced sent. The earnest and eloquent manner in which h ciated the duty of Congress, to legislate solely with a view to put down the rebellion, without stopping for a moment to discuss matters of inferior importance, nade a deep impression. His statement that the out had culminated and would subside, and his prophesy that by next year conservatism will rule the

WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE CONTRABANDS? The disposal of the thousands of contrabands that have locked within the lines of the Union army at various ing the wiscet of the shalltionists in Congress. They find they have purchased an elephant. Nearly all the Western States have constitutional or legis lative provisions excluding free negroes from a residence within their limits. New England is regarded as th only available refuge for the contrabands. It is proposed to colonize them in Massachusetts, where they can be taught a variety of industrial pursuits in warm and comfortable workshops, and reduce the cost of labor to the manufacturers. These contrabands cannot remain with safety where they now are. Their permanent support by the government is not contemplated, and the only place open for their reception is New England, al-though the majority of these men here scorn the idea of working for a living, and when asked to work answe that they did not come here to work, but to avoid it.

EX-PRESIDENT PIERCE AND THE ENIGHTS OF THE

It appears from official correspondence that towards the close of last year a letter, written by a Dr. Hopkins came into possession of the State Department. It was therein stated that an organization had been formed by which the members of the Knights of the Golden Circle were to rush into the army and service of the federal government, and thus gain influence and position for carex-President Pierce was among its prominent members. When this letter was received a note was sent to ex-President Pierce, enclosing an extract from it, saying:-Your name is connected with a secret league th' object of which is to overthrow the government Any information on the subject will be accept any information on the subject will be accept-able." Mr. Pierce, in reply, expresses his sur-prise that even seeming credence should have been given to the charge; appeals to his general course as a complete refutation of the slander, and remarks that he never belonged to any secret league, society or associatary Seward, in reply, explains that this was written by William Hunter, Chief Clerk of the Department; explains the circumstances under which he signed it, regrets that it gave offence, and offers an apology.

DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION RELATIVE TO STATE PRISONERS. The commission relative to the State prisoners closed

Manufield Walworth shall be released, on condition that he goes immediately to Saratoga county, his paternal idence, remain there, and report to Hon. Rouben H. Walworth, until otherwise permitted by the Secretary of War. In the meantime, he is not permitted to write letters to the States in insurrection.

Rudolph Watkins, son of a clerk in the Navy Department, to be released upon taking the oath of allegiance. Mrs. Augusta Heath Morris, Mrs. Rose O. N. Greenhow and Mrs. C. M. Baxley are to be conveyed beyond the lines, and to give their paroles not to return north of the Potomac until permitted by the Secretary of War.

J. T. Dangerfield and Wm. H. McKnight, of the Alexandria Relief Association, to be released upon their parole of honor to render no aid or comfort to the enemy The commission has adjourned, to meet in Baltimore to-morrow, and on Monday proceed to Fort Lawyette.

TRAVEL TO VIRGINIA UNRESTRICTED. From and after this date permits or passes to cross the Potemac within the lines of the federal army will not be required of citizens. Officers and soldiers will be required to exhibit passes to come from the Virginia side to this side of the river, as usual.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS UPON TRADE IN VIRGINIA. The restrictions have been removed from the fisheries along the Potomac, and also from the trade upon the Chegapeake and Ohio Canal, so that, with the opening of the Baitimore and Ohio Railroad, the canal to Cumberland, the fisheries on the Potomac, and the syster bads in the waters of the Chesapeake, affairs in this region are rapidly assuming the position que aute beilum.

APPAIRS ON THE LOWER POTOMAC. Evansport. A boat's crew from each vessel was sent The HERALD correspondent accompanied the econnoitering party. They visited nearly all the bateries in that vicinity, including one on a high bill, about half a mile back of Evansport, where was found the gun that Captain Eastman had attempted unsuccessfully to burst. It is a thirty-two pounder. One of the trunnions was broken off, the carriage burnt and the gun overtended to cover the retreat of the rebels through the the rear, in the event of their being driven from the lower batteries. It was well defended by rifle pits. A picturesque view of the river was obtained from the battery, disclosing a small island at the mouth of Chapawamsic creek, which is not discernable from the river. Several of the men went a considerable distance into the country, but there were no signs of ebel troops nor inhabitants, all of whom seem to have leserted their houses. A quantity of shovels, pickaxes and other implements, used in the construction of earthworks, were found. Both parties of seamen subsequently returned on shore, in command of Lieut. Commanding McCrea, of the Jacob Bell.

Prooceeding inland, they crossed Chapawamsic creek, where they found five rebel storehouses, containing hay cutting machines, platform scales and other useful appaents. They set fire to the buildings,

which were entirely consumed.
General Hooker has been awarded the credit of re noving the guns from the rebel batteries, as well as for having effected the first landing at these strongholds. The gens were removed by Lieutenant Commanding Eastman, of the Yankee, on whom, as a seaman, the

WHO SAVED THE CAPITAL? The attempt of the Philadelphia press to claim for the mall band of Pennsylvania troops who arrived at Washington on the 18th of April, the credit of having saved the capital from seizure by the rebels, has excited much ridicule here. It is well known that this squad of four hundred and fifty men came here without arms, clothes, equipments or discipline, and were here for weeks before they were fit for any service. The Sixth Massachusetts was the first armed regiment to enter Washington when it was beleaguered, and, with the exception of a few the District militia, was the sole reliance for its protection until the blockade was broken by the advance by way of Annapolis.

THE REBEL GROULS AT MANASSAS. A citizen of Cambridge, Mass., who went to Bull run to recover the remains of his brother, who belonged to a sacrilege committed upon the graves of our soldiers by the rebels. About twenty of the Boston company and a Chelses company had been buried near each other, but every skull had been taken away, and nearly all the principal bones of the bodies were gone. Some of the bodies had been dug out, and others pried out of the were slit to obtain the bones of the arms. It was de-

scribed as a sickening spectacle.

The Senate held a long executive session this afternoon. No confirmations were made, but a large batch of neminations was received and referred. Among them were some fifteen Brigadier Generals. Bayard Taylor was nated for Secretary of Legation at St. Petersburg. and the committee reported favorably. The nominatio

THE PAY DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY. The Secretary of War transmitted to the House to-day the reply of the Paymaster General to a resolution respecting the number of officers connected with the Pay Department of the army, the disbursements made by Department of the army, too discovered them, &c. He says the resolution has not been auswered from the inability of out the report requested. Various matters embraced in the resolution have been answered in replies to three reso-lutions. The cierical force in the Paymaster's office is inadequate to its current business, and accounts of the

examined for this reason.

THE BANKRUPT LAW. here, to urge the passage of a bankrupt lew. There is now a prospect of some movement in this direction.
There has hitherto been very little progress in regard to this measure; but the necessities of commercial comnunities, suddenly prostrated by the outbreak of the rebellion, are forcing themselves upon the attention of Congress, and steady and energetic action on the part of the friends of the measure may yet secure its pas RETURN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL EXCURSION PARTY

FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

The naval committees and other members of Conress and their friends returned to-day from Fortress Monroe, where they had a pleasant and interesting visit-They report that the preparations for taking care of the Merrimac, should she venture out, are of the most com plete and formidable character.

THE GREAT WESTERN MAIL.

The Great Western mails left this morning in the seven o'clock train of cars from Washington for all the local

SERIOUS ILLNESS OF MR. CONWAY, OF KANSAS. The sickness of representative Conway, of Kansos, is much more serious than was at first supposed. His disase has assumed the form of pleurisy.

THE OPPICIAL REPORT OF THE BATTLE BETWEEN
THE MONITOR AND MERRIMAC.
In reply to the Senate's resolution, calling for General
Mansüeld's report concerning the rebel steamer Merrimac, that body has been respectfully informed it is deem-ed inconsistent with the public interest at present to furish a copy of the document. THE ARMY.

It is understood that Gen. Cadwallader has been nomi stod as Major General of Volunteers.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS. THIRTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS.

THE INDIANS OF MORTHERN MISSIFFI.

Mr. DOOLTTIE, (rep.) of Wis., presented a communication from the Secretary of the Interior relative to the Indians of Northern Mississippi. Ordered to be printed.

Mr. Summer, (rep.) of Mass., offered a resolution that the Committee on the Conduct of the War be instructed to collect evidence in regard to the barbarous treatment by the rebels at Manassas of officers and soldiers of the Inited States, killed in battle there. He said :- We have been disgusted and shocked by the reported treatment of the remains of soldiers by the rebels. The skull of a brave Massachusetts officer has been made into a drink-ing cup for a Georgia rebel. It is evident that we are in conflict with a people lower in the scale of civilization than ourselves, and he wanted record made for history. Mr. Howand, (rep.) of Mich., moved to enlar ge the resolution so as to include an inquiry whether the rebels enlisted Indians, who committed unheard of atrocities,

and how this savage warfare was conducted. If he was a commanding general he would make ne prisoners of men who were serving side by side with Indians. The resolution, thus amended, was adopted. ORGANIZATION OF DIE MILITIA OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMNIA. Mr. WISON. (rep.) of Mass., introduced a bill for the better organization of the militia of the District of Columnia.

better organization of the militia of the District of Columbia.

Mr. Dixon, (rep.) of Cons., said a resolution was yesterday passed appointing Mr. Woolsey a regent in the Smithsonian Institute. He (Mr. Dixon) had before offered a resolution to appoint Henry Barnard. He had received a resolution to appoint Henry Barnard. He had received a letter from Mr. Barnard, requesting him to withdraw his name in favor of Mr. Woolsey. The letter was read.

GRINGAL WOOLS COMMAND.

Mr. HALE, (rep.) of N. H., offered a resolution that the Secretary of War be instructed to transmit to the Senate the correspondence of General Wool with the War Department relative to the movements or part thereof since he has been no command at Fortress Monroe.

The resolution was adopted.

The Mollingal Columbia was taken up.

The question being on an amendment offered by Mr. Pomeroy, that equitable settlement be made with glave and owner.

Mr. Wooner, (Union) of Ind., said he had hoped when.

NEW YORK HIGHALD, WEDNESDAY, AFRIL 2 1862 TRIPLE SHRET continued the slave trade till 1808 was not passed by the unanimous vote of any one section. He represented here a people who emphatically belonged to the Union, and if you would find any portion of the country pre-emmently loyal and conservative, it is the people of his own State, and in what he said he should try to represent the views of the people of that loyal State. But instead of avoiding those questions, he found measure after measure proposed here, such as allowing colored people to carry the mails, and the resolutions as to the condition of the States. He must say, in all respect, he thought there were other things to be looked at by this Senate, especially the Confiscation bill, which he regarded as a measure of more moment than any before the Senate, and calculated to put down the rebellion. He had presented a bill for the abolition of slavery in this District, which was a copy of a bill presented by our honored President when he was a member of the other House, not that he fully favored that bill, but because he deemed it better than the one now before the Senate, and District, which was a copy of a bill presented by our honored President when he was a member of the other House, not that he fully favored that bill, but because he deemed it better than the one now before the Senate, and because it has two features which he regarded as very essential. The first was gradual emancipation. The wisdom of Franklin has been referred to in this debate. Yet that great statesman, in a bill to abolish slavery in Peomsylvania, which at that time had less than 4,000 slaves, did not think it proper to change this state of things by a sudden change, but left it to work out by a gradual process—an example which, I think, would be worthy of our attention at this day. History shows many instances of men rushing and destroying, in their haste, the very thing they wish to accomplish. The wise and prudent statesman takes things as he finds them. He could not vote for the bill, as introduced by the committee, for various reasons, one was that there is nothing to hinder men from Virginia bringing in slaves here worth \$20, and selling them for \$300 under this bill. The Senator from Massachusotts has referred to the opinions of Mr. Adams. As far as he knew and remembered Mr. Adams, he was no advocate for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia in 1837. Mr. Adams said he had invariably declared against the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia. In 1839 he said, although he had advocated the right of persons to petition for the abolition of slavery here, he was not himself prepared to grant their prayer. Mr. Adams said this when the slave population was double what it is now, and when they had slave pens and slave markets here, and I leave it to the friends of Mr. Adams to say what he would have said now. But we have a class of men who are zealous to accomplish much, and who are not willing to allow natural laws to work. Look at slavery in this listrict now. Let it alone, and in ten or fifteen years you will have no slavery had shay be a subject of the world as it is and allow c existing between the se two races. He could never vote for this bill unless the colonization principle was engrafted upon it. Indiana has settled this question by sevenfy thousand majority. Illinois has passed a provision that no negro or mulatto shall move into the State after the adoption of the new constitution, and that no negro or mulatto shall have the right of suffrage or hold office. Indiana has voted against their holding real estate. He was not here to answer questions as to whether this was right or wrong. He took the world as he found it. But such was the opinion and the prejudice among his people, that this wall, so built up, will stand. Look at the free blacks already in this District. And yet the Senate proposes to set the slaves all loose, and make of this District a settlement of free blacks. If they pass this bill they will also have to pass a law prohibiting the free blacks from other States settling in the District. Mr. Adams also took the additional ground that whenever this question was presented it ought to be submitted to the people of the District. If the legal voters of this District have any rights at all, this question of their demestic policy certainly ought to be one. He believed the President's Message to Congress. relative to giving aid to the States, was the first thing of the kind ever done and entirely without a precedent. He regarded the establishment of the principle under any pretext or under any circumstances, to strike a blow at the rights of the States as destructive of all the liberties of the country. It might be that he read wrong, but he remembered reading while in Europe that a distinguished General having crossed the Potomac and viewed the vast army collected there, said, "This is the last of this government; State lines have been blotted out." The sentiment—that "stavery is sectional and freedom national." But in his view the constitution is national, and the right of the people of the States to make their own domestic institutions is national. If Mr. Jefferson sa gress, saying to the people of one section of the country, "You do this, and we will do that?" He never intended, as a public man, under any circumstances, to do anything, or make an effort to strike at the rights of the States. He believed in the old fashioned doctrine of States rights, not the modern doctrine that the domestic institutions and rules of society belong to the State and the national governments has no right to take the first step to interfere with them. Jefferson, in his letters, lays down the idea that certain definite powers and rights belong to the States, and in proportion as you assume these powers, you open the field to corruption and jobbing; and if he was saked to sum up, in a few words, the history of the origin of this rebellion, he would say it is in this very system of office hunting, jobbing and corruption. There was another objection to this measure. In the present condition of the country he thought it wisdom to consult the border States. At present he thought the bill ill advised and inexpedient, and ought to be gostroned to some other time, when the public mind fould look at this question, and these questions could be fairly presented before all the members of this confederacy. But it might be asked what he proposed to Mo with these other questions. He proposed to prosecute this war, and let time, the great arbiter, determine the proper remedies. There are certain silent forces at work. Are you ready to let them work? There are to be two winesses on the stand. There are some 400,000 efficers and soldiers who will go South and see slavery as it is, and there are 20,000 slaveholders in the North who will see our institutions as they are. They are going to be witnesses. stand. There are some 400,000 efficers and soldiers who will go Soath and see slavery as it is, and there are 20,000 slaveholders in the North who will see our institutions as they are. They are going to be witnesses. They will come up to fill these sents. He knew of seventy gentlemen belonging to Northern regiments who had married in Maryland in the last six months, and a man from his own State had bought land in Maryland and will soon be ready to plough up the land and put in the seed, and furnish produce to this capital, if you will only let this thing alone. The resolutions offered by the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. Sunner), that the States had lost all their rights, he considered had done more harm than 50,000 men in the rebel army, and that this continued agitation would estrange all the Union feeling in the South. He referred to and read General Sherman's proclamation and General Buell's letter, and also the letter of Mr. Underwood, as being of the right stamp and having the true ring to them. He did not want the army to return fugitive slaves, and had voted heartily for the article of war to prohibit it. He wanted the army to go and moet the enemy, and let slavery take care of itself. If this was done, and Congress would only keep within its legitimate sphere, we might have peace in Tennessee in sixty days and a provisional government in every State in ninety days. He believed it possible to live at peace with slavery in the Union, and if any Senator believes that we cannot, he would advise him as an honest man to call his armies home. We must succeed in the attempt to put down this rebellion. Twenty millions of such a people cannot fail. The strength of this country is not in armies or money. It is in something besides houses, and money, and land. It is in that benevolent system of integrity, so to speak, which has clothed this country with more strength and more of the elements of moral power than any nation on earth. We have more charitable institutions for the deaf, dumb, blind, &c., and more in

moral power than any nation on earth. We have more charitable institutions of its continuation, and more institutions of its continuation, and more institutions of its continuation, and these are elements of strength which will never fall. With this strength we can put down this rebeilion and restore this government and this constitution, without crossing at to detting an i. If you go from the New World to the Old, and wander among her old palaces, you may find, among other curiosities, collections of flags of all nations, and among others the flag of this country, and the question will at once arise how we came to put the stars there. It is because we were the first nation that looked to God for assistance, and caught the eye of the star, and placed it upon the American flag, and the God of our fathers will be with us to-day if we do our duty. There is no bill for the prosecution of this war for which he would not vote. The Tax bill especially met his commendation. It will bring about a direct accountability between the people and their representatives. It will work wonders—purify our public men, and bring about a new order of men. He intended to stand boldly forward to urge the prosecution of this war, and not stop to bestow attention on outside measures until the flag of the country floats over the whole Union. He believed these to be the sentiments of his peeple. They regarded this as a great struggle for freedom, and they would have their Senators and representatives push it forward, and take up no weights by the wayside, nor allow any impediments to interfere with this grand work of restoring this Union.

Mr. Poweror, (rep.) of Kansas, spoke in favor of the amendment as a matter of justice. He said he came here last April, and nearly all the loyal men he found living in the District were slaves. He did not believe any slaves were held here by any right or any jaw, and we have no right to pay masters for slaves to which they have no legal right.

Mr. Fresenner, (rep.) of Many and the law presented the reso

isterday passed appointing Mr. Woolsey a regent in the Smithsonian lastitute. He (Mr. Dixon) had before offered a resolution to appoint Henry Barnard. He had received a letter from Mr. Barnard, requesting him to withdraw his name in favor of Mr. Woolsey. The letter was read.

Mr. Halk, (rep.) of N. H., offered a resolution that the Segretary of War be instructed to transmit to the Senate the correspondence of General Wool with the War Department relative to the movements or part thereof since he has been in command at Fotress Monroe.

The resolution was adopted. A constitutional question had been raised in objection to that measure, and pledging the State in favor of this measure, and present the correspondence of the payment in case the resolution was adopted.

The unit of the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia and the United States who delice

nection with slavery. It did not follow that the republi hection with slavery. It did not follow that the republican party intended to do anything unconstitutional, because they do what is properly constitutional, and the Senator from Virginia (Air. Willey) had noright to say that all measures brought in are a series of one plan. He thought slavery an evil, and if, however, he could weaken and injure slavery under the constitution, he had the right, and it was his duty to do it. They could not suppose the republican party were going to shut their mouths and not do or think anything, and they could not expect him to lose any opportunity to dissolve the government from slavery. He should be false to all the instincts of his nature if he did—believing, as he did, that slavery was a wrong and a curse. Within constitutional limits, they could not expect him to neglect any opportunity to strike a blow at slavery. He believed the time had come for the abolition of slavery in the District. He hoped it would be an example to his friend from Virginia (Mr. Carille), and lead him into the ranks to inaugurate a movement to bring his own State into the position she might have. Virginia has nearly as much territory as all New Fingland, and has unparalleled resources; but look at the difference! What can be the reason, except that Virginia has an institution which New England has not. He never could understand why distinguished S-nators exhaust themselves in saying Hosannas to slavery, which belitted them and kept them far below the position they were capable of assuming. Mr. Pontrov's amendment was rejected.

Mr. Danks, (Union) of Ky., offered an amendment to the

Mr. Clark, (rep.) of N. H., caned up his substitute for the bill.

Mr. Davis, (Union) of Ky., offered an amendment to the original bill, that persons are permitted to retain pes-session of their slaves till the money appropriated be paid them. Rejected.

Mr. Davis offered another amendment, to strike out the limit of \$250 as the areases amount to be read for each

Mr. Davis offered another amendment, to strike out the limit of \$300 as the average amount to be paid for each slave. Rejected. Yeas 11; mays 30.

Mr. Browning, (rep.) of Ill., said he found no difficulty as to the constitutionality of this measure. In the various times which this measure has been proposed, it has never been objected to on the ground of constitutionality, but that of expediency. He had an amendment, suggested by a citizen of the District who was himself a slaveholder. He moved to mend Mr. Clark's substitute by making the average value of slaves \$500, and providing that one-half be paid to the master, if loyal, and the other half retained by the Secretary of the Treasury; and that when the slave liberated by the bill emigrates to another country, it shall be paid over to him or her. Adopted.

Mr. Willey, (Union) of Va., moved the amendment of Mr. Clark's substitute so as to provide for the submission of the question to the people of the District before it became a law. Disagreed to. Yeas 13; mays 24.

Mr. Turmulut, (rep.) of Ill., offered an amendment to the original bill, that no payment be made for any slaves to any person who has borne arms in rebellion against the United States, or in any way given aid thereto. Adopted.

After further discussion the Senate went into execu-

Adopted.

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House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, April 1, 1862. ENLARGEMENT OF THE ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL. Mr. WASHBURNE, (rep.) of Ill., presented a memoria from the Illinois Constitutional Convention, in favor of the early enlargement of the Illinois and Michigan Canal tion of the bill to that end, it being a matter of great national and military importance.

The memorial was referred to the Committee on Mili tary Affairs.

The consideration of the Pacific Railroad bill w further postponed until Tuesday next. ENERAL HOOKER AND THE SURRENDER OF PUGITIVE SLAVES Mr. HUTCHINS, (rep.) of Obio, asked leave to introduce

Whereas, Brigadier General Hooker, commanding Armyof the United States of the Lower Potomac, Maryle on the 26th day of March, 1862, issued an order, of whithe following is a copy—

HEADQUARTERS OF THE DIVISION,
CAMP BAKER, LOWER POTOMAC, March 26, 1862.

TO THE BRIGADE AND REGIMENTAL COMMANDERS OF DIVISION.—

TO THE BRIGADE AND REGISERVAL CONSIDERATE DIVISION:—
Messers. Nally, Gray, Dunnington, Dent, Adams, Speake, Price, Posey and Cobey, citizens of Maryland, have negroes supposed to be with some of the regimental camps. The Brigadier General commanding directs that they be permitted to visit all the camps of his command, in search of their property, and if found that they be allowed to take possession of the same without any interference whatever. Should any obstacle be thrown in the way by any officer or soldier in the division, they will be at once reported to these headquarters. By command of Brigadier General HOOKER.

headquarters. By command of
Brigadier General HOOKER.

JOSEPH DICKERSON, Asst. Adj. General.
And whoreas, by the directions of Brigadier General
Daniel E. Sickies, a report was made in relation to the
said order of Brigadier General Hooker, of which the fol-

said order of Brigadier General Hooker, of which the following is a copy:—

Heanquartes, Second Regiment Excelsion Brigades, }

Carp Hall, March 27, 1862.

Lictician—In compliance with verbal directions from Brigadier General Daniel E. Sickies, to report as to the occurrences at this camp on the afternoon of the 26th inst., I beg leave to submit the following.—

At about half-past three o'clock on the afternoon of March 26 admission within our lines was demanded by a party of horsemen (civilians), numbering fifteen. They presented the lioutenant commanding the guard with an order of entrance frem Brigadier General Joseph Hooker, commanding the division. A copy of the order is herewith appended. The order stated that nine men should be admitted. I ordered that the balance of the party should remain without the lines, which was done. Upon the appearance of the others there was visible dissatisfaction and considerable maneuvring among the solidors, to so great an extent that I almost feared for the safety of the slaveowners. At this time General Scales of the order. soldiors, to so great an extent that I almost leared for the safety of the slaveowners. At this time General Stekies opportunely arrived and instructed me to order them outside the camp, which I did, amidst the loud cheers of the soldiers. It is proper to add that before entering our lines, and within about seventy-five or a hundred yards of our camp, one of their number discharged two pistol shots at a negro who was running past them, with an evident intention of taking his life. This justly enraged our men. All of which is respectfully submitted. Your obedient servant, JOHN TOLER, Major, Commanding Second Regiment Excelsior Brigade. To J. C. Palmer, Jr., Aide-de-Camp and Assistant Adjutant General.

Adjutant General.

Therefore, resolved, That the Joint Select Committee on
the Conduct of the War be requested to inquire whether the Conduct of the War be requested to inquire whether said order of General Hooker is not a violation of the recent Article of War passed by Congress and approved by the President, concerning the action of the army in the return of fugitive slaves, and to report such a remedy as in the judgment of the committee will prevent the issue of smilar orders, which, while they outrage the feelings of loyal officers and men, necessarily tend to demoralize the army.

Mr. Wickliffe, (Union) of Ky., before the reading was completed, objected to the introduction of the proposi-THE TAY BUT

The House then went into Committee of the Whole on An amendment was adopted exempting from taxation

under the railroad, omnibus and steamboat section, all foreign emigrants travelling at a reduced rate of fare into the interior of the country, a distance of over a hun'

An amenament was acopied exempting from taxation, under the railroad, ominibus and steamboat section, all foreign emigranis travelling at a reduced rate of fare into the interior of the country, a distance of over a hundred miles from the accoast.

During the proceedings the House found itself without a quorum, and much time was consumed in securing one. Several amendments were made to the above section, including a tax of one and a half per centum on the gross receipts of bridge corporations.

An amendment was adopted that trust companies be included with the banks, savings institutions, &c., and that they pay three per centum on their income.

A new section was added, providing that on and after May next there shall be paid for every insurance policy which may be made, renewed, continued or endorsed, a duty of ten cents for every one hundred dollars insured for one year, &c.

Mr. Cotrax, (rep.) of Ind., moved to strike out from the bill the section levying a tax on newspaper advertisements. He looked upon this mode of taxation as oppressive and unjust, and would briedly state his reasons for the faith that was in him. The proprietors of newspapers were willing to bear their full proportion of the burthens imposed on the suppression of this unholy rebellion, and they were ready to make all proper sacrifices to sustain and support the government; but it would be easy to show that this tax on newspaper advertisements was unjust and oppressive. There were no less than four classes of taxes imposed on the newspaper establishments. There was, first, the tax on the staple, the printing paper,; there was, also, the tax upon gas, oil and candies, largely used in printing offices, as most of the labor was performed at night; there was, in addition, the tax on the legraphic messages, hearing heavily, as the telegraph was necessary to the interest of the paper; then again, was the tax upon the proprietor is tower of the papers, and of the papers, the life and blood and whole sustance. The wears of the newspaper proprieto

favor of other trades and professions. This tax will operate against the bill, for it will cartail the publication of advertisements and lessen the consumption of printing paper. It will increase the distress of the country. It will show thousands out of employment, and rob the poor and unemployed of the means of seeking and obtaining employment. In every aspect he looked upon the advertisement tax as unjust and pernicious. They would be disappointed in their expectation of raising a revenue in this way, for alroady advertising had fallen off all over the country, and this provision would destroy it altogether.

Mr. Wassen, (Union) of Pa., thought that the pressought to come up to the work.

Mr. Colean was of the same opinion; but, by this bill, without taxing advertisements, publications were taxed more than they ought to be. They pay more than their proportion on the articles used, and for paper, telegraphic messages, gas light, &c. They might us well impose a tax on boarders at a hotel, or on lawyers for every criminal or civil suit.

Mr. Wassen said that persons engaged in every branch of business, merchants as well as mechanics, were not taxed less than newspapers, which ought to bear their

Mr. Wisself said that persons engaged in every branch of business, merchants as well as mechanics, were not taxed less than newspapers, which ought to bear their just proportion.

Mr. Stevens, (rep.) of Pa., replied that in England a large income was derived from the tax on advertisements as well as the tax on newspaper stamps. The committee he thought had already made large concessions by reducing the tax on printing paper and striking out that on ink.

Mr. Collean said that experience had shown that the

on ink.

Mr. Colfax said that experience had shown that the English tax on newspapers and books was a tax on knowledge, and that the people demanded and secured a reform in this particular.

The committee disagreed to the motion of Mr. Colfax to strike out the advertisement section.

The section was finally amended as follows, and then retained in the bill:—

The tax on advertisements shall be assessed on amounts received for the same, not the amounts charged, is reduced from five to three per centum.

Newspapers with less than two thousand circulation or whose receipts are less than \$1,000 per annum for advertisements, are exempted from any advertising tax.

The committee here rose and the House adjourned.

NEWS FROM FORTRESS MONROE.

All is quiet here to-day. Captain Seaver, of the Aeronautic Department, make a balloon reconnoissance this afternoon—the first made

here since last summer.

captured on the James river, above Newport's News yesterday, transporting produce and stores for the rebe

Our Fortress Monroe Correspondence.

FORTRESS MONROE, March 31, 1862.

Arrival of a Royal Party from Washington to Look After the Escape of the Nashville-Strange Conduct of the British and French Naval Commanders, &c.

Yesterday (Sunday) afternoon the steamboat King Philip arrived here from Washington, on a special trip having on board Vice President Hamlin, Senators Hale and Anthony and others of the Senate Naval Committee accompanied by a numerous posse of friends, including about fifteen ladies. The weather on arrival of the early storm prevailing, accompanied by wind and rain The party landed at the new government wharf, and from thence proceeded to the fortress, where they paid their wholly unexpected by the latter; but the General, who always has the door latched outside, gave his guests a hearty welcome. As soon as it was known that the Vice President had arrived, a salute of fifteen guns was fired

President had arrived, a salute of fifteen guns was fired from the water battery of the fortrees. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the visitors, under a proper escort, proceeded to inspect the fortrees. The soldiers' quarters, bakehouse and hospital were in turn inspected, after which the party took a promenade on the paraget of the work, from which they obtained an exceleint view of Fort Wool (Rip Raps), the rebel batteries at Sewall's Point, Newport's News, the immense naval and transport fleets in the harbor, the federal encampments at Hampton, and the ruins and debris of the late village of that name. A review of the troops in garrison was also witnessed.

To-day the visitors proceeded per stoamboat to Newport's News, accompanied by the band of the fonth New York regiment. At that point they were received by Brigadier General Mausheld and his staff. A salute was fired from the Columbiad battery in honor of the Vice President. The party visited the General's headquariers, and from thence proceeded to the military village of the soldiers' log huis. After remaining one hour at this place, the party re-embarked and returned via this point, proceeding up Hampton cove, where they had an excellent view of camp Hamiton. They subsequently visited the marvellous battery Monitor, and latterly the diagship Minnesota. At the latter vessel they were received by Flag Officer Goldsborough. A salute of thirteen guns was fired. The party returns to Washington this evening. To an inquiry I made of one of this royal party as to the object of this extraordinary visit, I received the reply that "it was an official visit of the Senate Naval Committee to make inquiries as to the escape of the Nashville." Everybody here thought it was a first class pleasure trip at the expense of Unels Sam.

The British was steamer Rinaldo, which for several weeks past has been anchorede outside our fleet off the mouth of the Chesapeake, got up steam this morning, and proceeding—for strange it is—deserves an explanation. The point whe

The commander of the French steamer Catinat, which arrived here last week, is also guity of a palpable breach of naval etiquette. On his arrival he first anchored outside of our fleet, and subsequently steamed to a point about a half a mile south of the government wharf and cast anchor, so as to put his vessel a short distance from and outside the Monitor, thus obscuring the view from the latter of Elizabeth river, Swall's Point and other points necessary for the latter vessel to watch against rebel encroachments. One week has elapsof since this occurred, and yet the commander of the French way of the Monitor, so that the latter can have an unobstructed view of any movements of the rebels.

FIRST BRIGADE, FIRST DIVERON,

DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,

NEWPORT'S NEWS, Va., March 30, 1862.

The Merrimac—Why Don't She Come!—Constant Influx of Runaway Slaves—The Cruel Treatment to which They are Subject—Delightful Weather—Charming Spring Scenery—Mittlary Dramatic and Singing Clubs, &c., &c.

The Merrimac still hesitates to make her reappear-

ance. From all we can learn by the evidence of deserters and fugitive slaves, it seems to be a fact that she is ready authorities have concluded to act for the present on the defensive, or whether the Merrimsc has not sufficient

defensive, or whether the Merrimac hās not sufficient confidence in her own powers, we are of course unable to say. The latter opinion seems to be the general one among military men here. The little rebel gunboat Teazer still lies opposite to Day's Point, and will occasionally venture down the river a few miles, but never far enough to come within range of our guns.

Runaway slaves continue to come into our camp almost every day. On Friday three boys belonging to Robert Saunders, a large farmer living on the Yorktown and williamsburg road, made their escape from Mulberry Island, where they had secreted themselves for over two months. They state, as their reason for running away that one of their comrades, who had been twice guilty of the crime of visiting his wife on Sunday, had been shot dead, and that they themselves had each received fifty lashes for breaking the laws once. The slaves are made to work on the fortifications Sundays and week days alike, and when they are unable to work any longer, they are sent to Richmond and sold off to the cotton States. A smart little negro boy, fitteen years of age, who came in yesterday, gave a good deal of valuable information about the fortifications at and around Williamsburg and Yorktown. He also related some langhable anecdotes about General Magrader, under whom he has served as waiter. The gallant General is still as liberal as ever in his personal allowance of grog, and it is no wonder that his men complain because they are entirely cut off from the use of it.

Spring has now fairly set in in this region, and more lovely scenery than that which meets the eye all along the James river cannot be imagined; the first maiden green begins to peep forth from the earth, and the songsters of spring fill the woods with their wonderfolly sweet harmonies. Even the ruins of the old Lees' and Jones' mansions, most of them destroyed by "generous and chivaries' Southerners, form no unfitting parts of the landscape.

Company E, of the First regiment New York Volunteers, have forme

the landscape.
Company E, of the First regiment New York Volunteers, have formed a dramatic and singing club, which gives performances about twice a week. As a matter of course, the officers give every encouragement to such innocent pleasures, and the performances are such as to reflect much oredit upon those who undertake the task.

New York Charter Elections.

Ogdersageng, April 1, 1862.

At the charter election to-day the entire democrate ticket was elected except the Collector. Hon David C. Judson was elected President of the Board of Trustees by

SCHEMETADY, April 1, 1862.
The whole democratic city ticket was elected to-day by increased majority.

ROSSING THE GUARD PROBABLE FATAL RESULT. JOSEPH Garrett, a member of "Les Enfants Perdus," while attempting to run the guard at the beadquarters of the tempting to run the guard at the beadquarters of the regiment. 77 White street, a few evenings ago, was caught by one of the sentries, named Charles Ziegler, and, a struggle ensuing, the latter was compelled to use his bayons in solf-defence. Garrett was stabled in the abdonen, and so severely injured that his recovery is decistful. He was removed to the New York Hospital, where he now lies in a precurious condition. Ziegler was surrendered by his superior officer to Justice Brennan yesterday, and committed to await the result of the wounded man's injury.

INTERESTING FROM EUROPE.

THE MAILS OF THE JURA

English Opinion of the Emancipation Message.

News from India and China by the Red Sea Telegraph,

Our European files, by the Jura at Portland, came to hand from Boston at half-past eleven o'clock last night. The mails reached the city at an early hour this morn-

Accounts from Berlin state that on the day of the disso ution of the Chamber blank cartridge was distributed in the barracks, and every measure taken to put down any

The London journals are dated to the 21st of March, and contain the fellowing important expression of Eng-lish opinion on the merits of President Lincoln's emancipation Message, already referred to in our telegraphic

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

President Lincoln's Emancipation Policy
[From the London Times, March 20.]

The intelligence from America which we publish today is the most important which has reached this country since the United States split into two republics. The first offer has been made by the North. President Lincoln proposes to abolish slavery in the South by gradually buying up the slaves with the federal revenues, leaving, however, to each State its present right to continue or to discard the "institution" itself. The object is avowed to be that of recovering to the Union the border States. The means of purchase are not set forth. It is only suggested that a continuance of the expenditure now applied to the war would soon suffice to purchase this expedient towards peace. This proposition is important, not for its intrinsic likelihood of acceptance, but simply because it is a proposition, and is the first bid made towards putting an end to the war. We may hope that others may follow, and that the North may gradually rise in its offers until something acceptable has been put forth. The only reply of the South to Mr. Lincoln has been a resolution of the Confederate House of Representatives to burn all cotton and tobacco that may be in danger of faling into the hands of the invaders. Meanwhile the snow has fallen on the district that separates the armies of the Potomac and Manassas, and General McClellan is again prevented from advancing. In overy point of view this proposal of the federal President gives great scope for speculation, and parhaps some gimpse of hope; but it is for what it may herald, and not for what it is.

[From the London Star, March 20.]

gimpse of hope; but it is for what it may herald, and not for what it is.

[From the London Star, March 20.]

President Lincoln has sent a message to Congress which will secure for him the warmest sympoly and admiration of the ciclized world. He proposes that the two Houses should by a joint resolution, offer to co-operate with the slave States for the gradual emancipation of the slave states for the gradual emancipation of the slave spound of the slave states for the gradual emancipation of the slave spound of the most efficient of self-preservation; and that if adopted by the more northern States, it would alienate them permanently from the Southern confederacy, and so break the neck of the rebellien. While not claiming for the federal government the right to interfere with slavery within State limits, the President significantly remarks that if resistance to the national authority continues, it is impossible to foresee what may take place. "Such means as may seem indispensable, or may obviously promise great efficiency towards ending the struggle, must and will come." This is an unmistakeable hint to those who persist in rebellion, to put their house in order. Mr. Lincoln, in the form of an interrogatory, suggests whether the compensation offered would not be of more value to the States and persons concerned than the institution of slavery in the present aspect of affairs. The message appears to have been well received by the more influential organs of the press, and we shall wait with great interest for the debutes which it must occusion within the wa is of Congress. If it impossible to cargerrate the impostance of this decement, or the momentous character of the is see which are involved in the propositions which it coutains. It is at all events, an indication that the dawn of emanolization is not remote, and that the government of the United States are prepared to carry out that great act of justice by wise and peaceful means.

[From the Liverpool Post, March 20.]

Mr. Lincoln has sent to Congress a messa

From the Liverpool Post, March 20.]

Mr. Lincoln has sent to Congress a message so startling that it has almost suspended discussion at Washington, the different parties being afraid to meddle with it till they discover the tendency of public opinion. However it may be eventually received in America, there can be no doubt that it will have an incalculable effect in Europe, and that effect will be most favorable to the Northern cause. Hitherto, every European country has justified its leaning to the South, or its apathy towards the North, on the ground that the federal government was not honestly or heartly opposed to slavery. To that sorious imputation the new message of President Lincoln is a direct answer, for he proposes a scheme which will 'initiate'—that is the word he himself selects—the engitire emancipation of the negroes.

News from India and China. THE RED SEA TELEGRAPH.

A despatch from the Red Sea and India Telegraph Commany, Island of Jubal. Red Sea, has been received [as lated by one day as from London.]

Linux March 26. Noon

The Odin has passed Jubai, having on board apanese ambassadors.

The Odin reports that Shanghae was closely invested

by the rebels.

Lord Eigin arrived at Calcutta on the 1st of March,

The Sumter Prisoners
ARREST OF THE UNITED STATES EX-CONSU AND THE PAYMASTER OF THE SUMTER-HOW IT WAS MANAGED—THEY ARE ON THEIR WAY TO BOSTON.
The following is an extract from a private letter to a gentleman in this city, showing the manner in which the Paymaster of the Sumter and the United States ex-Consul at Cadiz were made prisoners, and transferred from the United States ship Ino to the bark Harvest Home, bound

CADIZ, March 11, 1862.

to Boston, where they may be soon expec

In my last letter, a week ago, I forgot to tell you that the ship lno arrived from Boston in thirteen days' pas-sage. She was a merchant vessel, purchased by the government, and is commanded by Lieut Creesy, for-merly a celebrated captain in the merchant service, who made some extraordinary passages in the Flying Cloud to and from San Francisco. Captain Crossy proceeded from here to Algesiras, and from thence went over to Tangier, to take on board the ex-Consul, T. T. Tunstall, and the Paymaster of the Sumter, who, I mentioned in my last letter, ported had been arrested by our Consul. It appears that they had been confined in Irons for over a week at the Consulate's, previous to the arrival of the Inc. The foreigners at Tangier, on the day of the arrival of the latter vessel, surrounded the Consulate and demanded the release of the prisoners. Captain Creesy landed thirty men, armed with cutlasses and navy revolvers, and headed, by a drummer, "ever and anon beating martial sounds," marched up to the Consulate, some half a mike distant from the landing, and there formed a hollow square, with the prisoners shackled in the centre, each carried by two sailors, and returned to the beach amidst carried by two sallors, and returned to the beach amidst-crowds of Jews, Gentiles and Mahomedans that lined the streets and housetops, hooting and shouting all the time. The Ino then passed over to Algesiras. Captain Craven, of the Tuscarora, directed Captain Creesy to re-Craven, of the Tuscarora, directed Captain Creesy to release the prisoners; but he declined, and went to sea for the purpose of meeting with some American vessel bound home. After cruising about some eight or nine days, he fell in with the bark flavvest Home, from this port, bound to Boston, on board of which vessel he transferred the prisoners in irons, to be taken home in that manner, and to be handed over to the District Attorney at Boston. The prisoners were to be confined on beard in separaterooms, and no communication to be allowed between them, and also to fare as the sailors. Two blankets and a bed each were furnished them by the line. Captain Creesy escorted the Harvest Home as far as taps St. Vincent, and then returned to this port. The name of the Paymaster of the Sumter is Myers.

News from the West Indies. OUR BERMUDA CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR BERMUDA CORRESPONDENCE.
HAMILTON, Bermuda, March 21, 1862.
Arrival of the British Steamer Bermuda, with Flyty Tone 64,
Gunpowder on Board—Passengers for the Rebel States—
English War Vessels and Their Movements, &c.

The steamer Bermuda arrived yesterday at St. Georges, from Liverpool, England, bringing dates thence, to the 1st inst. The report is that she has on board fifty

tons of gunpowder. Everything in regard to her is hept quite secret by those on board. She has brought some passengers, and it was rumored last evening that Mr. Slideli was one of them. She will I presume, leave again as soon as she obtains a supply

HAMILTON, Bermuda, March 22, 1862 The following ships-of-war have left Bermada during the past week or two:-

he past week friadem, for England. Landrail, for New York, Racer, for Charleston. Greyhound, for Halfrax. Immortainte, for Barbad Abookir, for Rum Key. The ships of war now here are:-Nile (flagship.) Agamemnen. Ortando, Terror. Nimbe